Title: BIS vs CRS: Expert Guide on Certification & Compliance

Description:

Understand BIS vs CRS, their differences, and how Bureau of Indian Standards certifications impact compliance for your products in India.

Introduction: A Client Story

Two years ago, a Bangalore-based electronics startup approached our compliance team at **Diligence Certifications**. They had imported smart LED televisions and were ready for market launch. Their assumption was simple: "We only need BIS Certification." What they didn't know was that televisions fall under the **Compulsory Registration Scheme (CRS)**, a subset governed by the *Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)*.

Within days, customs had held their consignment due to missing CRS Certification. The result? Three months of delay, additional demurrage charges, and a missed Diwali season launch.

This is not a one-off case. Many brands — from global giants like Samsung to Indian SMEs — often confuse **BIS and CRS**. The two terms sound similar but serve different compliance functions.

What is BIS Certification?

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is the national standards body of India, and is a department of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs. The BIS was established by the enactment of the BIS Act of 2016. The Bureau sets quality standards for several industrial sectors and ensures conformance.

BIS Certification is primarily applicable to:

- Cement
- Household appliances
- Packaged drinking water
- Steel products
- Food items

It ensures product safety, reliability, and compliance with Indian standards. Manufacturers receive the **ISI Mark**, which consumers instantly recognise as a trust seal.

What is CRS Certification?

The **Compulsory Registration Scheme (CRS)** was introduced by BIS in 2012 in collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY). It targets the fast-evolving electronics and IT sector.

CRS Certification applies to:

- Mobile phones
- Smart TVs
- LED lamps
- Power banks
- Laptops and tablets

Here, instead of the ISI mark, products carry the **BIS CRS Registration Mark.** The process ensures imported and domestic electronics meet safety requirements before entering the Indian market.

BIS vs CRS: The Core Difference

Feature	BIS Certification	CRS Certification

Governing Body	Bureau of Indian Standards	Bureau of Indian Standards + MeitY
Applicable Products	Cement, food, household goods, steel	Electronics & IT products
Mark Issued	ISI Mark	CRS Registration Mark
Testing Labs	BIS-approved labs	BIS-recognised labs (electronics focused)
Mandatory Since	1955 (ISI)	2012
Example	Amul Milk, Tata Steel	Samsung Mobile, LG Smart TV

Why Do Businesses Confuse BIS and CRS?

The confusion arises because **both certifications fall under the Bureau of Indian Standards**. Clients often assume one certification applies universally.

For instance:

- A **water purifier** requires **BIS ISI Certification**.
- A **smart refrigerator** with IoT features may require **both BIS (for safety) and CRS (for electronics components)**

Compliance Risks of Ignoring Certification

- **Customs Seizures:** Products without proper BIS or CRS cannot clear ports.
- **Legal Penalties:** Non-compliance may lead to fines under the BIS Act, 2016.
- **Brand Reputation:** Indian consumers associate ISI and CRS marks with safety. A missing mark raises distrust.
- **Delayed Launches:** Seasonal demand windows can be lost due to certification delays.

BIS and CRS: The Regulatory Ecosystem

BIS and CRS certifications are not just paperwork; they are part of India's larger **quality control order (QCO) ecosystem**.

- **Ministry of Consumer Affairs** → Oversees BIS.
- **MeitY** → Identifies electronics requiring CRS.
- **BIS** → Executes standards and certifications.

Certification Process: How It Works

BIS Certification Process

1. Application submission via BIS portal
2. Testing at BIS-recognised laboratory
3. Factory inspection (if required)
4. Grant of ISI mark licence

CRS Certification Process

1. Online application to BIS under CRS scheme
2. Product testing in BIS-approved electronics lab
3. Submission of reports & documents
4. Grant of CRS registration number

When Do You Need Both BIS and CRS?

Some products overlap. For example:

- **Smart washing machines**: BIS for safety, CRS for electronic display units.

- **Solar inverters with digital interfaces**: BIS for energy standards, CRS for IT components.

- This is where **compliance consultants** save time and money.

Conclusion

For any manufacturer or importer in the Indian market, keeping in mind the differences between BIS and CRS is extremely important. When it comes to BIS certification, it will always ensure compliance for a number of consumer or industrial products, whereas, for CRS certification it ensures compliance of electronic and IT devices.

If you don't understand the differences between BIS and CRS, you may delay your shipments, face penalties and damage your brand.

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